

REMARKS

This Paper is submitted in response to the final Office Action mailed March 10, 2006. This Paper is filed within two months of the Office Action mail date, namely May 10, 2006. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account number 02-1818.

Claims 16-19 and 145-161 are currently pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request that this Paper be entered as 1) it places the claims in a condition for allowance and 2) requires only a cursory review by the Examiner.

Claims 16-19 and 145-161 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,743,523 to Woo et al. (*Woo*). Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse this alleged rejection as *Woo*, having a priority date of March 16, 2000, is not prior art with respect to the present claims.

The present claims are supported by parent application serial no. 09/526,357, now U.S. Patent No. 6,969,483 having a filing date of March 16, 2000. The present claims recite a polymeric blend that contains a first component present in amount of about 55-99% by weight of the blend and a second component present in an amount from about 1-45% by weight of the blend. The '483 patent clearly supports these blend component weight percentages. *See* '483 patent, col. 4 lines 27-43, col. 6 lines 6-23. *Woo*, having a priority date of March 16, 2000 is thereby not prior art with respect to the present claims that are supported by the '483 patent having a priority date of March 16, 2000.

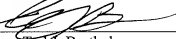
Moreover, the '483 patent and *Woo* contain the same disclosure regarding crosslinking. *See* '483 patent, col. 9 lines 29-60; *Woo*, col. 8 lines 33-64. Consequently, whatever *Woo* is alleged to disclose regarding crosslinking is not prior art with respect to the present claims. In any event, *Woo* has no disclosure whatsoever directed to a second component that is essentially crosslink free as recited in the present claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that claims 16-19 and 145-161 are in a condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Ted J. Barthel
Reg. No. 48,769
Customer No. 29200

Dated: May 8, 2006